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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/726,267 | 12/02/2003 | Edmund Schuller | S&S-1202A | 3358 |
| 22827 | 7590 | 11/28/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| DORITY & MANNING, P.A. POST OFFICE BOX 1449 GREENVILLE, SC 29602-1449 | | | | LANGDON, EVAN H |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| | | 3654 | | |

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/726,267 | SCHULLER ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Evan H. Langdon | 3654 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 23,24,27-29,33-35 and 37-46 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 25-26,30-32, 36 and 47-48 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 23, 24, 27-29, 33-35 and 37-46 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/3/04</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Species A in the reply filed on 29 September 2006 is acknowledged.

Claims 25-26, 30-32, 36 and 47-48 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 29 September 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 23, 24, 27-29, 33-35 and 37-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burke et al (US 5,507,226) in view of Labesky (US 5,833,776).

Burke discloses an apparatus for friction driving a spool, the apparatus comprising:
a friction roll having at least one rotatable roll body 12 disposed thereon; and
a friction ring 14 carried on the rotatable roll body, the friction ring configured as a belt that is removable.

Burke fails to show the friction ring 14 removable by having two open ends bound together by a fastening apparatus.

Labesky teaches a ring 10 with ring fastening means in general having two open ends bound together by a fastening apparatus 24, 26. The recitation with respect to the manner in

which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte masham*, 2 USPQ 2d 1647 (1987).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the friction ring of Burke to include a fastening means general having two open ends bound together by a fastening apparatus as suggested by Labesky, to more easily remove the friction ring of Burke.

In regards to claims 24, 27 and 28, Burke as modified by Labesky teaches the fastening apparatus also affixes the friction ring to the roll body to secure the friction ring to the roll body by an auxiliary fastener that is equally distributed over the circumference of the roll body 12 (Burke, Col. 4 lines 49-61).

In regards to claims 29 and 33, Burke as modified by Labesky teaches the fastening apparatus comprises two connectors 24, 26, whereby one of the connectors is secured to each of the connectors is secured to each of the open ends of the friction ring, where the connectors include hooks (Labesky Fig. 1 and 2).

In regards to claims 34 and 35, Burke as modified by Labesky teaches the hooks have a slanted shape (Labesky, Alternative embodiments - Fig. 16) and where the hooks are subjected to a load in a locking direction relative to a direction of drive of the friction ring when the connectors have secured a friction ring to the roll body.

In regards to claims 37-40, Burke as modified by Labesky teaches the friction ring is elastically constructed in a length direction so that the friction ring when installed on the roll body is subject to a tensile force (col. 3 line 64 to col. 4 line 62, Burke). In regards to claims 38-

40, the limitation that the elastic friction ring exhibits a cross-section that diminishes from a center portion of the friction ring to the edge when no tensile force is acting on the friction ring, where the cross-section is about constant when subject to a tensile force equal to that of installation on the roll body and where the ring exhibits a width that diminishes with increasing distance from the ends of the friction ring when no tensile force is acting on the friction ring are properties that are inherent to an elastic material that is ring shaped and subject to a tensile force.

In regards to claim 41, Burke as modified by Labesky teaches the friction ring is preshaped in a curvature that conforms to a curvature of a circumference of the roll body (Burke, Fig 2).

In regards to claim 41, Burke as modified by Labesky teaches the fastening apparatus 24,26 is preshaped in a curvature that conforms to a curvature of a circumference of the roll body (Labesky, Fig. 2).

In regards to claims 43-46, Burke as modified by Labesky teaches the ends of the friction ring are joined by an adhesive (Labesky, col. 9 lines 11-19).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the fastening ends of Burke as modified by Labesky to include an adhesive joining the interlocking elements as suggested by Labesky, to secure the engagement of the interlocking elements.

The examiner is taking official notice that having prepared points of adhesion and adhesive that is capable of being activated by at least one of heat or light are techniques that are well known in the art of adhesion.

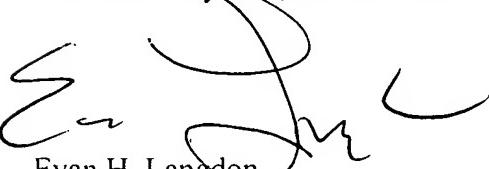
Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Evan H. Langdon whose telephone number is (571)272-6948. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on (571) 272-6951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Evan H. Langdon
Patent Examiner